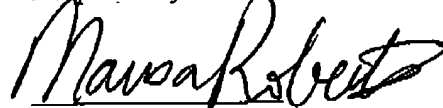


hydroxybutyric acid as component d), which elected species are readable on claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17-18.

The Examiner now requires an additional limitation of the previously elected species (b) which provides dodecylphenoxy poly(ethylene oxide)_{9.5-11} ethanol as the nonionic surfactant. Applicants respectfully traverse this additional election requirement.

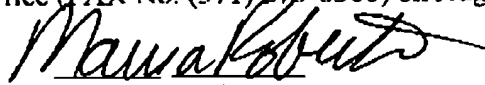
The Examiner has directed Applicants to limit species (b) such that the nonionic surfactant would only include a single specific number of ethylene oxide units, rather than a range of 9.5-11 of ethylene oxide units. However, as Applicants explained to the Examiner in the telephone interview, it would be impossible to require a single embodiment within the range of 9.5-11 since the exact number of ethylene oxide units resulting from polymerization varies from batch to batch. The polymerization process is not precise enough to require an outcome of, for example, 9.7 or 10.2 within this range. Rather, the given range of 9.5-11 is an average of the distribution of ethylene oxide units over a number of trials. For this reason, the election of species requirement should be withdrawn, and the examiner has agreed to do so.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (FAX No. (571) 273-8300) on August 10, 2006.



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